

3TIER Environmental Forecast Group  
 Advocates for the West  
 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
 Alliance to Save Energy  
 Alternative Energy Resources Organization  
 American Rivers  
 The Apollo Alliance  
 Audubon Washington  
 Avesta Utilities  
 BC Sustainable Energy Association  
 Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
 Central Area Motivation Program  
 Citizens Utility Board of Oregon  
 City of Ashland  
 Clackamas County Weatherization  
 Climate Solutions  
 The Climate Trust  
 Community Action Partnership of Oregon  
 Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho  
 Conservation Services Group  
 David Suzuki Foundation  
 Earth and Spirit Council  
 Earth Ministry  
 Ecos Consulting  
 Ecological Design Center  
 eFormative Options, LLC  
 Emerald People's Utility District  
 The Energy Project  
 Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc.  
 enXco Development Corporation  
 Environment Oregon  
 Environment Washington  
 Eugene Water & Electric Board  
 Friends of the Earth  
 Golden Eagle Audubon Society  
 Horizon Wind Energy  
 Home Performance Washington  
 Housing and Comm. Services Agency of Lane Co.  
 Human Resources Council, District XI  
 Iberdrola Renewables  
 Idaho Conservation League  
 Idaho Rivers United  
 Idaho Rural Council  
 Idaho Wildlife Federation  
 Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns  
 Kootenai Environmental Alliance  
 League of Utilities and Social Service Agencies  
 League of Women Voters – ID, OR & WA  
 Metrocenter YMCA  
 Missoula Urban Demonstration Project  
 Montana Audubon  
 Montana Environmental Information Center  
 Montana Public Interest Research Group  
 Montana Renewable Energy Association  
 Montana River Action  
 Montana Trout Unlimited  
 The Mountaineers  
 Multnomah County Weatherization  
 National Center for Appropriate Technology  
 Natural Resources Defense Council  
 New Buildings Institute  
 Northern Plains Resource Council  
 Northwest Energy Efficiency Council  
 Northwest Solar Center  
 NW Natural  
 NW SEED  
 Olympic Community Action Programs  
 Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA  
 Opportunity Council  
 Oregon Action  
 Oregon Energy Coordinators Association  
 Oregon Environmental Council  
 Oregon HEAT  
 Oregon State Public Interest Research Group  
 Pacific Energy Innovation Association  
 Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters  
 Pacific Rivers Council  
 The Policy Institute  
 Portland Energy Conservation Inc.  
 Portland General Electric  
 Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans  
 Puget Sound Energy  
 Renewable Northwest Project  
 Salmon for All  
 Save Our Wild Salmon  
 Seattle Audubon Society  
 Seattle City Light  
 Sierra Club  
 Sierra Club, BC and MT Chapters  
 Snake River Alliance  
 Solar Oregon  
 Solar Washington  
 South Central Community Action Partnership, Inc  
 Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency  
 Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
 Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs  
 Student Advocates for Valuing the Environment  
 Tahoma Audubon Society  
 Trout Unlimited  
 Union Of Concerned Scientists  
 United Steelworkers of America, District 11  
 WA CTED - Housing Division  
 Washington Citizen Action  
 Washington Environmental Council  
 Washington State University Energy Program  
 Working for Equality And Economic Liberation  
 A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity  
 World Steward



September 24, 2009

Peter DeVries, Council Chair  
 Washington State Building Code Council  
 PO Box 42525  
 Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Dear Chairman DeVries,

The NW Energy Coalition strongly supports the full package of proposed energy code amendments currently before the Council.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of more than 100 Pacific Northwest environmental, civic, and human service organizations, progressive utilities, and businesses working for clean and affordable energy. For nearly 30 years we've advocated for energy efficiency as the cheapest, cleanest and most abundant source of energy to meet our region's growing demand for energy. Thanks to investments in electric energy efficiency made since 1980 the region now saves \$1.6 billion *every year* – those are savings to our businesses and residents. And fully 20% of those savings are due to energy codes, primarily Washington's and Oregon's.

We urge you and all of the State Building Code Council members to adopt the full package of proposed changes for the following reasons:

- Energy savings:** Compared to the current (2006) state energy code, the full package of proposed changes will increase energy efficiency by an average of about 20%. Savings for commercial buildings average about 15%; about three-quarters of residential construction will be 25% more energy efficient and the rest will achieve savings of 17% to 25%.

While the proposed changes fall short of Gov. Gregoire's target for a 30% improvement, they do represent a significant step toward the goal. The proposed changes are practical, cost effective and readily achievable and will be a major step in improving energy efficiency in Washington's building stock. Multiple current studies show that with increased energy efficiency our regional utilities can avoid the need to build costly new power plants – making Washington's economy that much stronger.

- Affordability:** The proposed changes are a good deal for consumers. Yes, the cost of new housing may go up – but by less than one percent. For that, homeowners get a home that is warmer in winter and cooler in summer while consuming 25 percent less

energy. With a standard mortgage, the extra cost is paid for in a year, and over a decade the energy savings amount to an extra \$2,500 in the bank.

It's also important to note that the energy code levels the playing field for builders - they all face the same costs at the same time, even costs as small as these. Further, cost effective energy savings that are foregone in this code revision cycle will only add to costs later – costs will be higher for the building owner, for utilities and for society as it costs much more to retrofit a building than to build in energy efficiency up-front.

We urge that the SBCC approve the full package of proposed amendments to the Washington State energy code. Thank you for considering our comments.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Patton", with a stylized, cursive script.

Sara Patton  
Executive Director

cc: All SBCC members  
Keith Phillips, Governor's Office  
Tony Usibelli, Department of Commerce, Energy Policy Division